



October 2022

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

WHEAT BELT PPD STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2022-2024

Safety Initiative

In August we started with an overview of the Operational Efficiency Initiative, last month we dove into our Culture Initiative, and this month we will focus on Wheat Belt PPD's Safety Initiative.

Wheat Belt's Mission is to deliver electricity safely, reliably, and affordably. Therefore, our number one goal is to ensure we work safely to get to go home at the end of the day. Monthly safety meetings are held, crews conduct job briefings for every job, proper PPE (personal protective equipment) and tools are provided to our crews to do their jobs safely. Wheat Belt also participates in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP).



Our partners in RESAP include our statewide electric association safety professionals, other distribution cooperatives and public power districts and the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange (Federated) to create a culture of safety. This includes on-site safety

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LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Walther Farms LLC our August "Lucky Draw Winner"!

Walther Farms LLC is located on the highway in between Lisco and Broadwater. You can't miss them, they are the big white building in the middle of the hills. They built this location just over five years ago and grow mostly Frito Lay potatoes. Walther Farm LLC has several families on their farm. This year they welcomed four new babies into their farm family, three girls and one tough little boy. In their free time, the "family" likes to hunt, fish, play a little golf and chase kids. They all enjoy going to the local fairs and rodeos, and were able to make it to several this year. They said they have been very impressed with the local youth's talent. They enjoy being involved and helping in their community in any way they can!

Walther Farms LLC received a \$50 credit on their account for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call at 308-254-5871, or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Engagement page for information.



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Strategic Initiatives 2022-2024 cont'd from 12-A

inspections that are conducted every three years at each coop and public power district.

The worst thing we can do is become complacent in our roles, so our safety director and managers also conduct field visits to make sure all of our crews are following safety protocols. Employees here at Wheat Belt are committed to maintaining our high safety record and participate in safety trainings on a regular basis. To highlight our dedication to safety, each year our workman's compensation experience mod rate is reviewed and compared against the rest of Nebraska's rural electrical systems that are covered by Federated. The average experience mod within Nebraska is 1.00. The results show that our experience mod has not been higher than .85 in the last ten years, which shows that our losses are lower than the average in our state. Since our experience mod rate remains below the average for the state, Wheat Belt receives discounted workman's comp premiums from Federated.

We will continue to provide routine updates on the District's Strategic Plan in the coming months.



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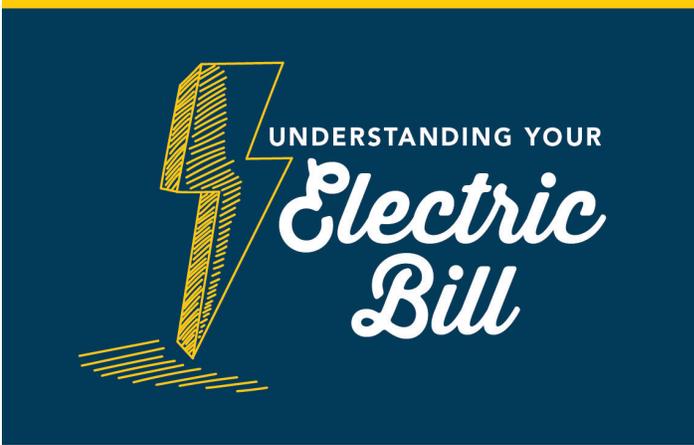
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In August we told you that we spend \$2.8 million a year on general electrical plant maintenance and \$3.9 million in investment into the electrical plant. What's the difference? We're glad you asked.

 **GENERAL ELECTRICAL PLANT MAINTENANCE**

Delivering electricity safely today

- After-hours outage restoration
- Repairing/replacing groundlines on poles
- Fixing broken crossarms
- Repairing neutral lines that have been torn down
- Replacing old/broken insulators

 **INVESTMENT IN ELECTRICAL PLANT**

Ensuring safe and reliable delivery of electricity for years to come

- New line build
- Large storm damage repair
- Transformer replacements
- All capital expenses to support these projects (bucket trucks, digger derricks, etc.).
- Rebuilding old line

Keep watching our Facebook page and your mail to learn more about this topic later in the month. For more information about electric plant costs, visit wheatbelt.com/yourelectricbill



Watch for continued communications about the cost of your electricity. More information will be released as we prepare our cost-of-service study analysis and determine the best way to move forward.

We're here to help along the way, visit wheatbelt.com/yourelectricbill to learn more.

Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

by Abby Berry

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication. Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager. Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software. It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up

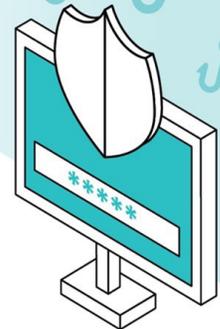
Continued on 12-D

See Yourself in Cyber.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Improve your cyber hygiene by doing these four things:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication
2. Use strong passwords and a password manager
3. Update software regularly
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks





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Watch for continued communications about the cost of your electricity. More information will be released as we prepare our cost-of-service study analysis and determine the best way to move forward.

We're here to help along the way, visit wheatbelt.com/yourelectricbill to learn more.

Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene cont'd from 12-C

window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

4. Recognize and report phishing attacks. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



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Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.



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